



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,792	07/22/2005	Tsuyoshi Koike	5000-5246	6565

27123 7590 08/10/2007
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101

EXAMINER

KURR, JASON RICHARD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

08/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,792

Applicant(s)

KOIKE ET AL.

Examiner

Jason R. Kurr

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/15/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed February 15, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. The listed references (62-200931, 6-315016, 11-163678, 3-29405) have not been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iemura (US 6,442,383 B1).

With respect to claim 1, Iemura discloses a stereo demodulator circuit comprising at least one noise control unit (fig.1) for performing a noise control responding to a reception electric-field intensity when said reception electric-field intensity is within a specified range (col.5 ln.11-16, "Ei, Eq")(col.3 ln.5-20), further comprising: an AD

converter unit (fig.1 #3,4) for AD-converting a reception electric-field intensity signal indicating said reception electric-field intensity; an offset unit (fig.1 #10) for digitally offsetting a digital signal obtained from said AD converter unit by a predefined value according to said specified range and truncating lower bits off said digital signal by the number of bits specified in compliance with a grade of noise control accuracy performed in said noise control unit (col.3 ln.42-51); and a control signal output unit (fig.1 #7) for outputting a control signal defining a control variable of a noise control performed in said noise control unit based on a signal obtained from said offset unit (col.5 ln.22-30, 41-54).

With respect to claim 2, lemura discloses the stereo demodulator circuit in claim 1, wherein said noise control unit is switched stepwise for providing a noise control variable responding to a control signal outputted from said control signal output unit (col.5 ln.41-54).

With respect to claim 3, lemura discloses a stereo demodulator circuit comprising at least one noise control unit (fig.1) for performing a noise control responding to a reception electric-field intensity when said reception electric-field intensity is within a specified range (col.5 ln.11-16, "Ei, Eq")(col.3 ln.5-20), further comprising: an offset unit (fig.1 #10) for offsetting a reception electric-field intensity signal indicating said reception electric-field intensity by a predefined value according to said specified range (col.3 ln.42-51); a difference output unit (fig.1 #7) for comparing a signal obtained from said offset unit with a zero bias and outputting the resultant difference (col.5 ln.22-30, 41-54); and a control signal output unit (fig.1 #9) for outputting a control signal defining a noise

control variable for said noise control unit based on a signal obtained from the difference output unit (col.6 ln.6-13).

With respect to claim 5, lemura discloses a signal processing circuit (fig.1) comprising at least one circuit part performing a prescribed control responding to an input signal level when said input signal level is within a specified range (col.5 ln.11-16, "Ei, Eq")(col.3 ln.5-20), further comprising: an AD converter unit (fig.1 #3,4) for AD-converting a level signal which is a signal indicating said input signal level; an offset unit (fig.1 #10) for digitally offsetting a digital signal obtained from the AD converter unit by a predefined value according to said specified range and truncating lower bits off said digital signal by the number of bits specified in compliance with a grade of said prescribed control accuracy performed in said circuit part (col.3 ln.42-51); and a control signal output unit (fig.1 #7) for outputting a control signal defining a control variable of said prescribed control performed in said circuit part based on a signal obtained from the offset unit (col.5 ln.22-30, 41-54).

With respect to claim 6, lemura discloses a signal processing circuit comprising at least one circuit part (fig.1) performing a prescribed control responding to an input signal level when said input signal level is within a specified range (col.5 ln.11-16, "Ei, Eq")(col.3 ln.5-20), further comprising: an offset unit (fig.1 #10) for offsetting a level signal which is a signal indicating said input signal level by a predefined value according to said specified range (col.3 ln.42-51); a difference output unit (fig.1 #7) for comparing a signal obtained from the offset unit with a zero bias and outputting the resultant difference (col.5 ln.22-30, 41-54); and a control signal output unit (fig.1 #9) for outputting

Art Unit: 2615

a control signal defining a control variable of said control performed in said circuit part based on a signal obtained from the difference output unit (col.6 ln.6-13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iemura (US 6,442,383 B1).

With respect to claims 4 and 7, Iemura discloses the stereo demodulator circuit in claims 1 and 3 respectively, however does not disclose expressly wherein the circuit further comprises a plurality of said noise control units, wherein said specified range is respectively specified for each of the plurality of noise control units. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art that stereo receivers may receive multiple channels at the same time. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use multiple noise control units of Iemura on multiple channels of a multiple channel receiver. The motivation for doing so would have been to simultaneously omit noise from each channel during broadcasts.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Suzuki et al (US 4,977,615) discloses a diversity receiver.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason R. Kurr whose telephone number is (571) 272-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00am to 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (571) 273-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JK

JK


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2300